The approved Technical Institutes are under the control of the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE). As per the Regulations issued by the AICTE, no professional institute is authorized to received from the students any other payment or amount, by whatever name it may be called in addition to the fees fixed by the State Level Committee for free seats as well as for the payment seats.

Upliftment of children

5469. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have not been able to achieve the targets committed at the 1990 World Summit for Children, as brought out in a news-item in Times of India, dated 19th April, 2002;

(b) if so, the reasons contributing to lack of required facilities, as revealed in the report of the UN Secretary General; and

(c) what steps have been proposed to be taken to create adequate facilities for the upliftment of children and their proper care?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) India has made steady progress in several sectors in achieving the targets committed at the World Summit on children held in 1990. The areas in which the improvement has been made are as under:

1. Under five mortality rate: per thousand live births, has come down from 109 (1992-93) (NFHS I) to 94.9 (1998-1999) (NFHS II).
2. Infant mortality rate: per thousand live births has declined from 80 (1990) (SRS) to 68 (1998-99) (NFHS II).
3. Underweight prevalence has slided from 53.4% (1992-93) (NFHS I) to 47% (1998-99) (NFHS II).
4. School attendance, age 6—14 (female) has gone up from 59% (1992-93) (NFHS I) to 74% (1998-1999) (NFHS II).
5. School attendance, age 6—14 (male) went up from 75.5% (1992-93) (NHFS I) to 84% (1998-1999) (NFHS II).

(b) Several factors such as rapid growth of population, limited resources, poverty, lack of awareness, etc. are responsible for slower progress in certain areas.

(c) The Government has taken several steps to improve the condition of children in the country. The Integrated Child Development Services Programme delivers an integrated package of basic services including supplementary nutrition, pre-school education, immunization, health check-up, referral services, and nutrition and health education. The Reproductive and Child Health Programme was launched in 1997 for providing child health care and maternal services. Sarv Shiksha Abhiyan has been launched with the primary objective to provide free and quality elementary education to all children by 2010. The proposed Constitutional **(93rd Amendment) Bill, 2001** has the objective of making education of all children in the age group of 6—14 years a fundamental right. The Government is in the process of finalising a National Nutrition Mission for the eradication of malnutrition in the country. A National Policy and Charter for Children is being finalized and a National Commission for Children to monitor proper implementation of existing laws for children and protection of child rights is also being set up.

Value-based education

5470. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMA CHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a two-day "South-Zone Vice-Chancellores' conference" was held in Mysore from September 30, 2001, for discussion on a wide-range of issues, including value-base education in universities, role of private sector in higher education, with a special focus on problems facing the university education in the country;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that as many as 60 Vice-Chancellors from Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Pondicherry and Tamil Nadu have participated in the conference;

(c) what were the main subjects discussed and decisions arrived at; and

(d) what steps are being taken to implement them?